

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO

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MOSCOW ALSO FOR KAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION, JANUARY-JUNE 1978

1. ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT
1983 SOVIET EMIGRANTS WHO LEFT USSR WITH SOVIET EXIT VISAS
FOR ISRAEL ARRIVED IN VIENNA DURING JUNE, BRINGING HALF-
YEAR TOTAL FOR 1978 TO 11,490. THIS REPRESENTS AN APPROXI-
MATE 61 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 7,003 TOTAL FOR THE
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FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977. A MONTH-BY-MONTH COMPARISON OF
1977 WITH 1978 TO DATE IS AS FOLLOWS

MONTH.....1977.....1978
'ONTH.....1977.....1978
JANUARY 1,245 1,761
FEBRUARY 1,063 1,812

MARCH	1,030	2,038
APRIL	1,204	1,938
MAY	1,143	1,958
JUNE	1,268	1,983

2. ISRAELI EMBASSY ALSO REPORTED THAT DURING JUNE 1978 1,178 OR 59.4 PERCENT OF THOSE ARRIVING IN VIENNA "CHANGED DIRECTION" AND OPTED TO SETTLE IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN ISRAEL. THE DROP-OUT RATE FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 IS APPROXIMATELY 56 PERCENT.

3. IF CONTINUED, THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION FOR 1978 IS LIKELY TO EXCEED TOTALS FOR EACH YEAR SINCE PEAK YEAR OF 1973 WHEN 33,461 JEWS WERE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE. ANNUAL TOTALS SINCE 1973 ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1974 - 20,700; 1975 - 13,300; 1976 - 14,300; 1977 - 16,700. THE INCREASE IS IN APPROVAL OF

FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS, AND FEW LONG-TERM UNRESOLVED CASES INVOLVING JEWISH ACTIVISTS OR "REFUSNIKS" ARE BEING RESOLVED. VANCE

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